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IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: John S. Flowers and Thomas C. Stracener  
SERIAL NO.: 09/757,872  
FILING DATE: January 10, 2001  
TITLE: Query-Based Rules for Use in Network Security Systems  
EXAMINER: Ellen C. Tran  
GROUP ART UNIT: 2134  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 23327-06893

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: December 2, 2004 By: H. Ribera  
Hector J. Ribera, Reg. No. 54,397

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
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**AMENDMENT A AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

This amendment for the patent application identified above is in response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2004, which set a shortened statutory period for response that expired on November 2, 2004. Applicants herein request an extension of time for filing this response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

Kindly amend this application as indicated herein.

Case 23327-06893 (Amendment A)

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